



DISTRICT 4 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING / ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

Sea Level Rise Task Force

Sea Level Rise: Planning for Sustainability

In District 4, Climate Change is not just coming. It's already here. Over the last century, the water elevations along the coast and in the San Francisco Bay have risen 8 inches. There are currently over 20 different locations on the State Highway System in District 4 that are routinely vulnerable to flooding during monthly extreme tide events. Sea Level Rise projections indicate that water elevations in this region will continue to increase; by about 14 inches by 2050, and about 47 inches by the end of the 21st century. Studies indicate that this amount of Sea Level Rise will directly impact about 15 miles of the District's state highway system along the coast, and another 184 miles of highway surrounding the San Francisco Bay.

Innovative Strategy

Given the potential severity and relative immediacy of the rising water elevations, it has become clear that the District needed to come up with a new and innovative approach to start addressing this issue now: both internally as part of our planning and project development processes; and externally through collaboration with our stakeholders across the region. As a result, the District 4 Sea Level Rise Task Force was created with the goal of working internally across functional units, and collaboratively with our external stakeholders, to plan, design, build, and maintain a more resilient and sustainable transportation network.

